

Present

Rob McDonough - Chairman
Dave Lewis – Vice Chairman
Steve Johns - Member
Mike Nordahl - Member
Orville Johnson - Member

Susan Good Giese – BoCC
Audra Zacherl – Public Works
Greta Dige – City of Helena
Jenny Garcin – Lewis & Clark County Communications
Christian Lehnert – Weed Coordinator

Call to Order: -Rob McDonough called the meeting to order.

Introductions: -Jenny Garcin – Lewis and Clark County Communications introduced herself.

Agenda: Susan Good Geise moved to approve the agenda. Seconded by Dave Lewis and approved.

Minutes: Dave Lewis moved to approve the March minutes. Seconded by Mike Nordahl and approved.

Budget Report/Claims: Orville Johnson moved to approve the budget report. Seconded by Mike Nordahl and approved.

Public Comment: - None

REPORTS:

BoCC – Susan Good Geise – Spoke about House Bill 129 – The bill will allow County Commission by ordinance to put a question to the voters of Lewis and Clark County as to whether they want the county offices to be run on a nonpartisan basis. The bill would go into effect at the next regularly scheduled election in June 2020. The county is getting ready to adopt the road matrix to put objective criteria on maintenance of county roads. Zoning is moving forward, meeting with members of the development community about what kind of zoning will apply across the valley. The zoning deals with density, availability of water, development effects on road, flood water and storm water. Community meetings on the zoning will start in the fall, and the county hopes to have a resolution by Thanksgiving or Christmas with hopefully a final decision by Valentine's Day. Keeping an eye on flooding potential, there are over 10,000 sand bags available to people that were either purchased or donated by private enterprise through a group called the COAD

Public Works – Audra Zacherl – Road Superintendent, Doug Nisbet is retiring May 23rd. His position is open now, and the county hopes to fill it before it closes. Public Works is looking for a board member for the Scratch gravel Solid Waste District – To qualify board members need to be a resident in Lewis and Clark County and live in the Scratch Gravel district. The solid waste board meets three times a year for a couple of hours.

City of Helena – Greta Dige – the snow is gone; the city handled 270 snow complaints this year and now getting ready for weed season. Starting the groundwork for a weed army, looking for volunteers for mapping, monitoring and coordinating and doing weed pull efforts. The city is re doing their growth policy and taking comments. Working on redoing the recreation section of the open lands recreation plan to address the increased recreational use. We will be educating people on what the City of Helena weed management plan contains. The plan covers 16 square miles within the city limits, probably 20 square mile outside the limits managing 3600 acres.

Board Reports:

Augusta Area: Mike Cobb – Not present.

Canyon Creek Area: Steve Johns – Lot of snow and drifting. Road impassable and having to drive down through the hay field.

Central Valley Area: Joel Redding –Not present - ill.

East Area: Dave Lewis – Not much going on, there were 15 to 18 foot drifts of snow this winter which now have pretty much melted. It is interesting there was very little run off where it melted.

Lincoln Area: Mike Nordahl – Snow is melting very slowly. In contact with the Forest Service working on splitting spraying on campgrounds and roads. Have volunteers to help, and will start working on trucks and be ready to spray for May.

Helena/South Area: Orville Johnson – quiet right now.

West Area: Judith Anne Vincent – Calving

Wolf Creek Area: Rob McDonough – Lots of snow, from the first of the year over 90 inches of snow. The mountains are heavy snow pack.

Coordinator Report: Christian Lehnert – Mike Bacon is back. We are in the process of trying to hire 8 new weed sprayers, hoping to schedule interviews next week. Working with Greta and Jesse to interview for the weed spray positions. The process is long and takes about 5 weeks, but the pay was increased to help with interest and obtaining applicants for the positions. We are in the hiring process for the seasonal office clerk position also. Working on Forest Service contracts to get the bids out for contracted sprayers. Working with Nicho Hash, Lewis and Clark County Attorney on the noncompliance policy and procedures. Susan working on getting compliance letters up to date, ready for Nicho to review. Attended professional Development training in Bozeman, the training was good

and geared toward running a weed program. Working with Jenny Garcin on Mustard education outreach to the public to bring awareness and we are hoping to have it out April 22nd depending on flooding. Planning to go to Augusta and Lincoln to the community government days next month. Will take the community sprayers at that time and help to bring awareness to the community. Planning on spray days in the Lincoln and Augusta areas. The Lincoln Vegetation Grant Project had good participation with more funds to be used this year and completed. The new truck is in. Changed some of the order for replacement trucks on the CIP, trying to use the CIP more efficiently and to shift some focus toward putting money aside to save for things like a new shop roof, possibly a wash rack system for washing truck. MDOT, BLM, FS agencies are invited by e-mail to the monthly weed board meetings. Susan Good Geise suggested reaching out with a phone call to those people.

Action Items: FY 2020 Budget Proposal - Audra Zacherl – Thanked the board for scheduling the meeting for today and presented the FY2020 Budget Proposal.

FY2020 budget has a 27% increase from FY2019 budget mostly due to additions of minor equipment.

Minor equipment increase includes a plow and sander to be used in the RID district.

Three replacement spray tanks at \$1,600.

Personnel increase included staff position pay grade increases.

Weed management planner from grade 4 to grade 8.

Weed sprayer position from grade 1 to grade 5.

Dave Lewis moved to approve the FY2020 budget proposal as presented. Steve Johns seconded and approved.

Old Business: -

Spray Rates Cost Increase: - Needed in order to catch up to current expenses, recoup costs and provide accurate match for grants. The last increase to spray rates was in 2006.

Mike Nordahl moved to approve the spray rate cost increase. Seconded by Steve Johns and approved.

Jenny Garcin - Communications and Community Outreach Coordinator for Lewis and Clark County.

Jenny introduced herself to the board and explained that her position's goal is to help get county information out better, quicker, in many different ways, identify areas for improved information and provide information that is more consistent.

She has been working with Christian to update the district's website and draft a press release talking about particular weeds to watch for this year and how they spread. The release will also talk about the resources that are offered and the help that we can provide in managing noxious weeds as well as what people's responsibility is to manage noxious weeds.

<u>Announcements:</u>	<u>Next Board Meeting</u> – May 1, 2019 – 1pm Weed Conference Room
	<u>Lewis and Clark Conservation District</u> meeting, May 9th at 1:00 P.M. – Augusta Youth Center
	<u>Agri Forum</u> – May 14 th , - Jorgenson's 6:00 pm No Host Social, 7:00 pm Dinner.

Adjournment: 2:40 pm